

ARKANSAS GUARD

1-Col  
 1-Lt. Col.  
 10-Majors  
 29-Captains  
 18-1st Lt.  
 21-2nd Lt  
 1-W. O.  
 4-M/Sgt  
 14-1st Sgt  
 6-T/Sgt  
 9-S/Sgt  
 83-Sgt  
 87-Cpl  
 692-Privates  
976 TOTAL STRENGTH

GOVERNOR
ADJUTANT GENERAL

STATE STAFF  
 3-Majors  
 2-Captains  
 1-2nd Lt.

SPECIAL STAFF  
 9-Majors

REGIMENT

1-Col.  
 1-Lt. Col.  
 3-Majors  
 6-Captains  
 1-1st Lt.

Headquarters Company

1-Capt.  
 1-1st Lt. 1-2nd Lt.  
 1-M/Sgt 1-1st. Sgt  
 4-T/Sgt 7-Sgt  
 5-Cpl. 39-Pvts

Service Company

1-Capt.  
 1-1st Lt. 2-2nd Lt.  
 3-M/Sgt 1-1st/Sgt  
 1-T/Sgt 3-S/Sgt  
 5-Sgt 5-Cpl.  
 39-Pvts.

Band Section

1-W. O.  
 1-T/Sgt. 1-S/Sgt  
 3-Sgts 4-Cpl.  
 26-Pvts

Medical Detachment  
 in two units

1-Major  
 4-Capt. 2-2nd Lt  
 2-S/Sgt 2-Sgt  
 4-Cpl. 24-Pvts.

3d-BATTALION

Bn. Hq. Detach.

1-Major  
 1-Capt 1-1st Lt  
 1-2nd Lt 1-S/Sgt  
 2-Sgt 3-Cpl.  
 18-Pvts

1st Company

1-Captain  
 1-1st Lt 1-2nd Lt  
 1-1st Sgt 5-Sgts  
 5-Cpls. 44-Pvts

2nd Company

1-Captain  
 1-1st Lt 1-2nd Lt  
 1-1st/Sgt 5-Sgt  
 5-Cpl. 44-Pvts

3rd Company

1-Captain  
 1-1st Lt. 1-2nd Lt  
 1-1st/Sgt 5-Sgt  
 5-Cpl 44-Pvts

4th Company

1-Captain  
 1-1st Lt. 1-2nd Lt  
 1-1st Sgt 5-Sgt  
 5-Cpl 44-Pvts

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS  
DECEMBER 10, 1941

INFANTRY COMPANY RIFLE, SHOTGUN

T/O 1-6  
Arkansas Guard

	Company Headquarters	First Platoon	Second Platoon	Total
Captain	1			1
First Lieutenants		1		1
Second Lieutenants			1	1
Total Commissioned				3
First Sergeant	1			1
Sergeants including	1	2	2	5
Mess and Supply	(1)			
Corporals	1	2	2	5
Clerk	(1)			
Privates and Privates First Class		22	22	44
Cook, 4th Class	(1)			
Cook, 5th Class	(1)			
Total enlisted strength	3	26	26	55
Aggregate	4	27	27	58

The ratio of Privates First Class to Privates will not exceed 1:2

Approved:

By order of the Governor:

OFFICIAL:

E. L. Compere,  
Brigadier General  
The Adjutant General.

Adjutant General's Department  
Little Rock, Arkansas  
December 10, 1941

T/O No. 1-5  
Arkansas Guard

MEDICAL DETACHMENT  
INFANTRY REGIMENT, RIFLE, SHOTGUN

	Special-ists' Rating	Headquar-ters, Regi-mental Det.	1st Battalion Section	Total Det-achment (Headquar-ters & 2nd Bn. Sec-tions)
Major	a <sub>1</sub>			1
Captains			2	4
Second Lieutenants			b <sub>1</sub>	2
Total Commissioned		1	3	7
Staff Sergeant			1	2
Sergeants			1	2
Corporals			2	4
Privates First Class and Privates, including:			12	24
Chauffeur (245)	6th		(1)	(2)
Dental (67)	5th		(1)	(2)
Medical (123)	5th		(1)	(2)
Sanitary (196)	6th		(1)	(2)
Surgical	6th		(1)	(2)
Basic			(5)	(10)
Total enlisted strength			16	32
Aggregate		1	19	39

a- Reg. Surg.  
b- Adm. Officer

The ratio of Privates First Class to Privates will not exceed 1:2

Approved:

By order of the Governor:

OFFICIAL:

E. L. Compere,  
Brigadier General,  
The Adjutant General.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS  
DECEMBER 10, 1941

T/O No. 1-4

INFANTRY HEADQUARTERS  
HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT BATTALION, RIFLE, SHOTGUN

	Head- quarters	Head- quarters section	Message Center Section	Intelli- gence Section	Sup- ply Sec- tion	Total
Major	1					1
Captain	a <sub>1</sub>					1
1st Lieut.		b <sub>1</sub>				1
2nd Lieut.					c <sub>1</sub>	1
Total Commissioned	2	1			1	4
Staff Sgt. including Sgt. Major & Supply Sgt (186)		1 (1)				1
Sergeants, including Section Leader			1	1		2
Section Leader and Typo- graphical Draftsman (76)			(1)	(1)		2
Corporals, including Clerk Headquarters (55)		1 (1)	1	1		3
Clerk, Record (55)			(1)			1
Intelligence				(1)		1
Privates & Privates First Class including Chauffeur (245)		3 (1)	6	3		12
Clerk, Record (55)		(1)	(1)	(1)		3
Messengers		(1)	(3)	(2)		6
Motorcyclist			(2)			2
Total Enlisted		5	8	5		18
Aggregate	2	6	8	5	1	22

- a - Adjutant and Detach. Commander
- b - Intelligence
- c - Supply Officer

The ratio of Privates First Class to Privates  
will not exceed 1:2

Approved:

By order of the Governor:

OFFICIAL:

E. L. Compere,  
Brigadier General,  
The Adjutant General.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT  
 LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS  
 DECEMBER 10, 1941

T/O 1-3  
 Ark. Guard

BAND SECTION SERVICE COMPANY  
 INFANTRY REGIMENT RIFLE

	Special- 1st rating	Section Hq.	Music Sec- tion	Bugle Section	Total Section
Warrant Officer		1			1
Tech. Sergeant		1			1
Staff Sergeant			1		1
Sergeants, including		2	1		3
Supply (186)		(1)			
Mess (124)		(1)			
Music			(1)		
Corporals, including		1	2	1	4
Clerk (55)		(1)			
Musician			(1)		
Buglar				(1)	
Privates & PFC, including		2	4	1	26
Clerk, Headquarters (55)	5th	(1)			(1)
Musician	4th		(1)		(1)
Musician	5th		(1)		(1)
Musician	6th		(1)		(1)
Cook (60)	4th	(1)			(1)
Buglar	4th			(1)	(1)
TOTAL ENLISTED STRENGTH		6	8	2	35
AGGREGATE		7	8	2	36

The ratio of Privates First Class to Privates will  
 not exceed 1:2

Effective Dec. 10, 1941

By order of the Governor:

OFFICIAL:

E. L. Compere,  
 Brigadier General,  
 The Adjutant General.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS  
DECEMBER 10, 1941

T/O No. 1-2

SERVICE COMPANY  
INFANTRY REGIMENT, RIFLE, SHOTGUN

	Special- ist Rating (Class)	Comp- any Hq.	Staff Sec- tion	Sup- ply Sec- tion	Main- ten- ance Sec.	Total Hq., Sec., Supply & Ma. Sec.	Total Comp- any
Captain		1					1
First Lieutenant			1			1	1
Second Lieutenant				1	1	2	2
<b>TOTAL COMMISSIONED</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
Master Sergeant, including Personnel		1	1 (1)	1		2	3 (1)
Sergeant Major Supply (126)			(1)				(1)
First Sergeant		1					1
Tech.Sgt., Trans.Chief (86)					1	1	1
Staff Sergeants, including Mechanic (86)			1	1	(1)	3	3 (1)
Stenographer (213)			(1)				(1)
Supply (186)				(1)			(1)
Sergeants, including Ammunition (186)		3	1	1 (1)		2	5 (1)
Clerk, Headquarters (55)			(1)				(1)
Clerk, Mail (56)			(1)				(1)
Mess (124)		(1)					(1)
Supply (186)		(1)					(1)
Corporals, including Clerk, Company (55)		1	1	2	1	4	5 (1)
Clerk, Headquarters (55)		(1)		(1)			(2)
Truckmaster (68)				(1)	(1)		(2)
<b>Privates &amp; Privates 1st Class, Incl.</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>39</b>
Armorer Artificer (11)	4th	(1)					(1)
Carpenter, general (50)	3rd				(1)		(1)
Chauffeur (245)	6th	(1)					(1)
Clerk, Headquarters (55)	4th		(2)	(1)			(3)
Clerk, Record (55)	4th		(1)		(1)		(2)
Clerk, Stock (55)	3rd			(1)			(1)
Cook (60)	4th	(1)					(1)
Mechanic (14)	4th				(2)		(2)
Messenger			(1)				(1)
Motorcyclist	6th	(1)			(1)		(2)
<b>TOTAL ENLISTED STRENGTH</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>AGGREGATE</b>		<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>		<b>24</b>	<b>61</b>

The ratio of Privates First Class to  
Privates will not exceed 1:2

EFFECTIVE Dec. 10, 1941

By order of the Governor:

E. L. Compere  
Brigadier General,  
The Adjutant General,

OFFICIAL:

T/O No. 1-1  
Arkansas Guard

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS  
DECEMBER 10, 1941

INFANTRY HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY,  
REGIMENT, RIFLE

	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Headquarters Company								
	Spec. Ratings	Hdqrs	Co.Hq.	In Telligence Plat.	Pla- toon Hqrs.	Reg- imen- tal Sec- tion	1st Bn Sec- tion	Total Plat. (Plt Hq. Reg. Sec.	Total Hqr & H Co.
Colonel		1							1
Lt. Col.		a1							1
Major		3							3
Captain		6	d1						7
1st Lieutenant		1	e1						2
2nd Lieutenant					1				1
Total Commissioned		12	2		1				15
Master Sergeant, Communication Chief & Sgt. Major			1						1
First Sergeant			1						1
Tech. Sgt. & Section leader						1	1	4	6
Sergeant, including Draftsman, Typographical			1	1 (1)		1	1	4	7 (1)
Lineman, telephone & Telegraph						(1)			(1)
Mess & Supply Operator Switch-board			(1)						(1)
Corporal, including Clerk, Company Clerk, Messagr center			1			(1)	1	4	5
Lineman, telephone & telegraph							(1)		
Privates & Privates 1st Class									39
			9	5	4	13	2	25	
Armorer-artificer			(1)						(1)
Buglar			(1)						(1)
Chauffeur	5th		(1)			(1)		(1)	
Clerks, message center						(1)		(1)	(1)
Cook	3rd		(1)						(1)
Cook	4th		(1)						(1)
Basis			(5)	(5)	(4)	(15)	2	(25)	(35)
Total enlisted									57
Aggregate									72

The ratio of Privates First Class to privates 1:2

Effective December 10, 1941

By order of the Governor:

E. L. Compere  
Brigadier General  
The Adjutant General

OFFICIAL:

*Heck*

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

REGIMENTAL STAFF  
SIXTH INFANTRY, ARKANSAS GUARD

Lt. Col. Guy Hendrix Lackey, Commanding Officer  
Major Murray B. McLeod, Ex. & Supply  
Major Carl I. Hosack, Plans & Training  
Major Robert W. Sisson, Public Relations  
Captain Bert Presson, Communications  
Captain Edward A. Rice, Intelligence  
Captain Benjamin E. Smith, Chemical Warfare  
Captain Isham J. Steed, Adjutant  
Captain Otto Sutton, Chaplain  
Captain Marion G. Ward, Asst. Plans & Training  
1st Lt. Roy L. Riales, Asst. Communications

STATE STAFF  
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT  
Major Sam Rorex

INSPECTOR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT  
Major B. A. Brooks  
Major Neill Reed

QUARTERMASTER CORPS  
Captain Earl E. Montgomery  
2nd Lt. Louis Oberste

FINANCE DEPARTMENT  
Captain Roy G. Paschal



The first large-scale deployment of the State Guard occurred in May 1943 when it was tasked to help fight massive flooding along the Arkansas River. For up to three weeks, about 450 Guardsmen patrolled levees, assisted in evacuation of flooded areas, stood guard duty, repaired waterlines, and crewed boats on the river. The State Guard was again called on to perform similar duties during flooding on the Arkansas and Ouachita rivers in April 1945.

The State Guard performed search-and-rescue missions beginning in November 1943 when the Rogers company assisted in the search for a missing child in Searcy County, as well as the following month when the Arkadelphia (Clark County) company responded after a man went missing near Malvern (Hot Spring County). In May 1944, units from Batesville (Independence County), Searcy (White County), and Blytheville (Mississippi County) searched for a missing teenager near Mountain View, and, in July, the State Guard helped look for a missing woman in Devil's Den State Park. Besides responding to emergencies, the State Guard also participated in community events such as parades, and at least one company assisted in the mobilization of draftees for federal service by manning the armory in which groups of draftees were mobilized.

Subsequent to the reorganization of the Arkansas National Guard, the Arkansas State Guard was disbanded on December 16, 1946, and though still authorized, the State Guard has not been manned or organized since World War II. With Act 670 of 1985 and Act 283 of 1989, the state legislature approved revisions to the state military code and allowed for the State Guard's reactivation by the governor whenever any part of the National Guard is in federal service or in any other emergency.

**For additional information:**

Adjutant General Correspondence, 1941–1945. Arkansas History Commission, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Stentiford, Barry M. *The American Home Guard: The State Militia in the Twentieth Century*. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2002.

**D. Blake Sasse  
Maumelle, Arkansas**

*Last Updated 5/18/2011*

**About this Entry:** [Contact the Encyclopedia](#) / [Submit a Comment](#) / [Submit a Narrative](#)

©2012 [The Central Arkansas Library System](#) - All rights reserved - Web Services by [Aristotle Web Design](#).



## [Home](#) / [Browse](#) / [Arkansas State Guard](#)

### Arkansas State Guard

The Arkansas State Guard was a military force that performed homeland defense, disaster relief, and search-and-rescue duties during World War II while the [Arkansas National Guard](#) was in federal service. From 1942 to 1946, this volunteer military force helped fight [floods](#) along the Arkansas and [Ouachita](#) rivers, looked for missing persons, and assisted in recovery efforts following devastating tornadoes around the state.

The State Guard was authorized by Act 85 of 1929 of the [Arkansas General Assembly](#), which allowed for its organization whenever at least seventy-five percent of the Arkansas National Guard was called into federal service. The need for this type of unit was proven during [World War I](#) when, after the three Arkansas National Guard regiments were federalized, sixty-four Home Guard companies were formed around the state to serve in their place.

Soon after the 154<sup>th</sup> Observation Squadron was activated for training in September 1940, Governor [Homer Adkins](#) and [Adjutant General](#) Ebenezer L. Compere began to receive letters from members of local American Legion and Veterans of Foreign War posts recommending the organization of a state guard. However, as the National Guard was only expected to be gone for a year, state officials declined to take this action, as it was not thought to be an efficient use of state resources. However, by November 1941, attitudes had changed, and plans for a state guard were rushed to completion after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Hendrix Lackey began service as commander of the Arkansas State Guard on January 12, 1942. Colonel Lackey was born in [Mountain View \(Stone County\)](#), graduated from [Hendrix College](#), and was a World War I veteran who worked in general merchandise, insurance, and the automotive industry before World War II. He also served as assistant adjutant general, a position he stepped down from in 1945 to head the [Arkansas Economic Development Commission](#) while retaining command of the State Guard.

The State Guard was originally organized as the Sixth Arkansas Infantry regiment with a headquarters company and two battalions of infantry, each with a medical detachment. But as the State Guard later expanded to 1,500 men, the First Separate Battalion was created in southeast Arkansas and a provisional battalion was formed in [Little Rock \(Pulaski County\)](#). Standard infantry companies were composed of fifty-five enlisted men and were commanded by a captain with the assistance of two lieutenants. Many State Guardsmen were veterans of World War I, with an average age of thirty-two for enlisted men and forty-one for officers, they were now too old for federal military duty but desired to continue to serve the country and the state in any way they could. State Guardsmen attended weekly drills but were not paid except when on active duty in response to emergencies or in annual training schools.

Most of 1942 was spent in organizing and equipping the initial units of the State Guard, and their first service apparently occurred when they were detailed to guard dams near [Hot Springs \(Garland County\)](#). However, their first significant mobilization was not until November 1-3, 1942, when Company G of [Rogers \(Benton County\)](#) was called out to direct traffic and guard property after a devastating tornado in [Berryville \(Carroll County\)](#). [Tornadoes](#) near [Camden \(Ouachita County\)](#) in April 1944 and in [Johnson County](#) in April 1945 also prompted State Guard alerts to assist in rescue and relief work.

## Photo of the Month

### Arkansas State Guard in WWII

Hardly a single person that lived through the World War II years was unaffected by the experience. Mobilization of forces to meet the Axis threat impacted many individuals. Over 16 million Americans served in the military. But for many other citizens the war was fought on the home front as well. Industry focused manufacturing on war needs and communities came together to support the effort through volunteer work, bond drives, scrap drives, blood drives, and rationing of food and goods.

Many men deferred from active service in the military due to age or occupation found an opportunity to contribute to the defense of their communities in the State Guard. The State Guard was a distinct military force active between 1942 and 1946, but separate from the National Guard. According to the Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture, "The Arkansas State Guard was a military force that performed homeland defense, disaster relief, and search-and-rescue duties during World War II while the Arkansas National Guard was in federal service." As such, these men performed community safety work that would typically be provided by the National Guard during peace time. However, they varied from war time Civil Defense personnel since they also acted as a military unit.

The Arkansas General Assembly originally authorized the formation of the State Guard under Act 85 of 1929. This legislation allowed the State Guard to organize during times of national emergency when at least 75 percent of the National Guard was incorporated into the active duty army. Many other states also organized similar units, which reflected the militia tradition throughout the nation. These militias only reported to the governors of their states and were bound to serve their localities. Federal law recognized this distinction of State Defense Forces and prohibited them from being called as a whole into regular service. This is unlike the National Guard which holds dual duties to both the state and federal governments under the Militia Act of 1903—a step that was necessary to regularize training, organization, and equipment of state forces to quickly and effectively augment the typically small peace time regular army during times of war.

Pictured at right are members of the Benton County unit of the Arkansas State Guard, which was based at the armory on South Eighth Street in Rogers. They originally formed in January 1942 as the Rogers Home Guard shortly after Battery F of the 142nd Field Artillery Battalion of the National Guard was federalized. The State Guard soon organized to fill the gap under the command of Colonel Hendrix Lackey. As part of the organization, the Rogers Home Guard became Company G, 6th Arkansas Infantry Regiment. The company provided 60 men of the 1,500 man statewide force. Generally organized as an infantry unit with attached medical personnel, each company of the State Guard usually contained 50 men commanded by a captain and two lieutenants. The statewide average ages of these soldiers were between 32 and 41. But the ages of the men serving in Company G ranged from 18 to 50.

They also reflected the militia tradition by electing their officers. R.L Vogt was elected captain and Edwin Mackey and Maurice Deason were appointed as lieutenants. Company G is shown in 1942 at the Rogers Armory in the picture at right. The Arkansas State Guard insignia is painted on the wall behind them. This insignia was also worn by members of the Guard as an embroidered unit device on the left shoulder. The unit attended weekly drills, but were only paid for their service while responding to emergencies or in annual training camps. Although our records are incomplete, some of the other known members of the company included Louis Brown, Jeff Duty, Lewis Lee, Jacob Green, Charles Bender, Herschel Back, Ralf Bender, Joe Bross, Roy Harris, Jack Slyter, Erwin Funk, and Thomas Keeling.

In 1942 the Rogers unit served in disaster relief efforts after a tornado struck Berryville and assisted in 1943 in the search for a missing child in Searcy County. They also supported large-scale deployments of the State Guard in response to other weather related emergencies during the war. The State Guard was disbanded on December 16, 1946 with the return of National Guard units to local control. Although it has not been reactivated since the end of World War II, it is interesting to note that it may be reactivated under state law during times of emergency.



ADJUTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

REGIMENTAL STAFF  
SIXTH INFANTRY, ARKANSAS GUARD

Lt. Col. Guy Hendrix Lackey, Commanding Officer  
Major Murray B. McLeod, Ex. & Supply  
Major Carl I. Hosack, Plans & Training  
Major Robert W. Sisson, Public Relations  
Captain Bert Presson, Communications  
Captain Edward A. Rice, Intelligence  
Captain Benjamin E. Smith, Chemical Warfare  
Captain Isham J. Steed, Adjutant  
Captain Otto Sutton, Chaplain  
Captain Marion G. Ward, Asst. Plans & Training  
1st Lt. Roy L. Riales, Asst. Communications

STATE STAFF  
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT  
Major Sam Rorex

INSPECTOR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT  
Major B. A. Brooks  
Major Neill Reed

QUARTERMASTER CORPS  
Captain Earl E. Montgomery  
2nd Lt. Louis Oberste

FINANCE DEPARTMENT  
Captain Roy G. Paschal





# ARKANSAS GUARD

## STATE OF ARKANSAS

To all who shall see these presents greeting:

Know Ye, that reposing special trust and confidence in the fidelity and abilities of ANTON LIMBERG

I do hereby appoint him

FIRST SERGEANT

of the COMPANY H, SIXTH INFANTRY

of the Arkansas Guard, to rank as such from the FOURTEENTH day of JUNE

one thousand nine hundred and FORTY SIX

He is therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the duty of

FIRST SERGEANT

by doing and performing all manner of things thereunto belonging. And I do strictly

charge and require all noncommissioned Officers and Soldiers under his command to be obedient to his orders as FIRST SERGEANT

And he is to observe and follow such orders and directions from time to time, as he shall receive from his Superior Officers and noncommissioned Officers set over him, according to the rules and discipline of War.

Given under my hand at LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

this FOURTEENTH day of JUNE in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and FORTY SIX

*Guy Hendrix Seavey*  
COLONEL, INFANTRY  
COMMANDING